



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Council

25 November 2021

Report of: Alan Robinson

Monitoring Officer



Breach of the South Kesteven District Council Member Code of Conduct by a District Councillor

To report to Council the outcome of my investigation into an alleged breach of the South Kesteven District Council Member Code of Conduct by Councillor Ian Stokes.

Report Author

Alan Robinson (Monitoring Officer)



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Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

- 1. That Council notes the content of the investigation report and supports the following proposed sanctions:**
 - That Councillor Ian Stokes makes a further public apology.**
 - That Councillor Ian Stokes attends equality and diversity training.**
 - That a public censure notice outlining the sanctions applied be put in place on Councillor Ian Stokes' website profile until the end of his current term of office.**

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 21 complaints have been received following the use of a racist phrase at a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 20 October 2021.
- 1.2 I, in my capacity as Monitoring Officer, have formally investigated this matter, taking into account a range of evidence, including the content of the 21 complaints received.
- 1.3 A copy of my investigation report is attached to this report at Appendix A.
- 1.4 Since sharing my draft investigation report with Councillor Ian Stokes, he has resigned as Vice-Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee and all other Committees where he was appointed by the Council as a member.

2 Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Assistant Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

3 Legal and Governance Implications

- 3.1 Legal and governance implications are set out in the body of the investigation report, as attached at Appendix A.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Alan Robinson, Monitoring Officer

4 Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix A – Monitoring Officer Investigation Report.